

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 067372

62

ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSCE-00

NSC-07 /030 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS: JFKING:MG

APPROVED BY S/PRS - JOHN F. KING

S/S - WHLUERS

----- 072632

O 032228Z APR 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL ACAPULCO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 067372

TOSEC 69

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: STATE DEPT. DAILY BRIEFING, APRIL 3, 1974.

FOLLOWING IS PORTION OF DAILY PRESS BRIEFING RE AMBASSADOR
GRAHAM MARTIN:

Q: DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT APPROVE OF AMBASSADORS RE-
COMMENDING THAT U.S. SENATORS BE LIED TO WHEN HE ASKS
QUESTIONS ABOUT AMERICAN POLICY?

A: THOSE ARE PRETTY STRONG WORDS. BUT IN FAIRNESS I THINK
I REALLY SHOULD POINT OUT TO YOU THAT CONTRARY TO SOME OF
THE STORIES I SAW THIS MORNING WHICH SAID THAT
THE AMBASSADOR WAS SAYING IN EFFECT WE SHOULD NOT LAY THE
FACTS BEFORE THE COMMITTEES, THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF
THE CONGRESS, THAT HE WAS REALLY ARGUING THAT A SUBSTANTIVE
REPLY TO THE QUESTIONS POSED BY SENATOR KENNEDY COULD BE
ARGUED -- OR ELABORATED, I SHOULD SAY -- IN FULL BEFORE THE
HOUSE AND SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEES, RESPECTIVELY. AND THAT, I THINK, COMES THROUGH
IN THE TELEGRAM.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 067372

Q: IN THE TELEGRAM, I CAN UNDERSTAND A DEFENSE OF THE WITHHOLDING OF EVERY SINGLE DETAIL, IN THE INTERESTS OF TACTICAL MANEUVERABILITY. BUT HE SUGGESTED -- HE RECOMMENDED WITHHOLDING ANY DETAIL OR HONEST ANSWER. AND THIS

WORD "HONEST" IS THE THING I THINK THAT PEOPLE WOULD QUESTION MORE STRONGLY THAN THEY WOULD HOW FULSOME IT WAS.

A: I REALIZE THAT THE LANGUAGE APPEARING THERE DOES CAUSE A PROBLEM. BUT, AGAIN, JUST TO BE FAIR, THE AMBASSADOR WAS ARGUING THAT THE FULL PRESENTATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S CASE FOR THE BUDGET FOR AID INTO INDOCHINA WOULD BE LAID OUT IN FULL BEFORE THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES AND IN RATHER DUE COURSE. HE WAS NOT ARGUING, OBVIOUSLY, THAT THE CONGRESS SHOULD NOT BE TOLD WHAT OUR PLANS WERE. I WOULD TAKE HIS WORD.

Q: HE WAS ARGUING THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT GIVE AN ELECTED MEMBER OF THE SENATE AN HONEST ANSWER.

A: I ACKNOWLEDGE THE PROBLEM.

Q: ARE YOU SAYING IT'S MARTIN'S POSITION THAT KENNEDY IS NOT A RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS AND, THEREFORE, SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN THIS INFORMATION IN AN HONEST FASHION? HE'S IMPUGNING KENNEDY'S MOTIVES, I GATHER THEN.

A: YOU DO HAVE THE TELEGRAM, AND IT'S ALL THERE.

Q: ARE THERE ANY PLANS TO BRING AMBASSADOR MARTIN HOME FOR CONSULTATION?

A: NOT THAT I KNOW OF, NO. BUT LET ME REPEAT THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS NOT ARGUING FOR DECEPTION OR OBFUSCATION OR MISLEADING THE CONGRESS AS A WHOLE. HIS ARGUMENT WAS -- I BELIEVE SOMEBODY USED THE WORD "TACTICAL" -- THAT WE WERE GOING TO BE PRESENTING OUR CASE ON THE BUDGET IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS BEFORE THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES. AND THAT SHOULD NOT BE LOST SIGHT OF BECAUSE OF THE WORDING OF THE TELEGRAM.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 067372

Q: THE WORD "HONEST" IS THE ONE THAT GIVES YOU TROUBLE. YOU SAY IT CREATES A PROBLEM -- THE USE OF THE WORD "HONEST". WHO DOES IT CREATE A PROBLEM FOR?

A: THAT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS, I THINK.

Q: HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR THE FACT THAT OF ALL THE

AMBASSADORS AROUND THE WORLD, AMBASSADOR MARTIN MANAGES TO GET HIS CABLES ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE TIMES (NYT) SO OFTEN?

A: IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE ONE OF MARCH 6TH -- THAT WAS AN UNCLASSIFIED CABLE WHICH SET FORTH HIS FEELINGS IN

SOME DETAIL -- AND WAS A PERSONAL THING, I GATHER. THE CABLE OF THE 21ST, WHICH WE'RE TALKING ABOUT TODAY, WAS HIS CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT. AND I REALLY CAN'T SAY MUCH MORE ABOUT IT THAN THAT.

Q: ARE YOU TRYING TO FIND OUT HOW IT GOT UP TO THE HILL?

A: IF THE PRESS ACCOUNTS OF IT ARE IN THE RIGHT, I GATHER THAT THE COMMITTEE OR THE SENATOR'S OFFICE RECEIVED THE CABLE WITH THE TOP PRECEDENCE SNIPPED OFF AND WITH ONLY THE BODY OF THE -- WELL, THE TEXT OF THE MESSAGE ITSELF ENCLOSED. SO IT WOULD BE A LITTLE DIFFICULT, I THINK, TO FIND OUT WHO IS RESPONSIBLE.

TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, I DON'T KNOW THAT THERE IS ANY INVESTIGATION TO FIND OUT HOW THIS HAPPENED.

Q: HAS AMBASSADOR MARTIN BEEN CHASTIZED FOR USING THIS TYPE OF LANGUAGE, OR IS THIS KIND OF THING ENCOURAGED -- THAT KIND OF CANDOR -- TO RECOMMEND LYING TO A SENATOR?

A: WE DON'T ENCOURAGE LACK OF CANDOR. I DON'T THINK THE PREMISE OF YOUR QUESTION IS FAIR.

(THE SPOKESMAN SUBSEQUENTLY SAID ON THE RECORD THAT IF THE IMPLICATION OF THIS QUESTIONING IS THE DEPARTMENT DOES UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 067372

NOT CONTINUE TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN AMBASSADOR MARTIN, HE ASSERTS THAT AMBASSADOR MARTIN IS A CAREER MINISTER WHO HAS SERVED LONG AND WELL IN MANY DIFFICULT POSTS AND THAT, OF COURSE, HE CONTINUES TO HAVE THE DEPARTMENT'S CONFIDENCE.)

Q: I THINK YOU'VE BEEN ASKED ABOUT THIS. THE CABLE IMPUTES TO SENATOR KENNEDY'S STAFF A DESIRE TO AID HANOI. IS THIS A FAIRLY WIDELY HELD VIEW, WHEN PEOPLE WHO ARE DEALING WITH VIET-NAM -- THE PEOPLE IN THE GOVERNMENT WHO ARE OPPOSED TO CONTINUING U.S. AID ARE OUT TO AID HANOI?

A: WE REFERRED HERE EARLIER TO THE CABLE OF MARCH 6TH, IN WHICH AMBASSADOR MARTIN SET FORTH HIS STRONGLY HELD VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT. THEY ARE HIS. AND I HAVE TO SAY

ONLY THAT THE VIEWS HE EXPRESSED IN THE MARCH 21 CABLE ALSO
ARE HIS VIEWS.

Q: DID DR. KISSINGER REPLY TO THE AMBASSADOR'S CABLE OF
MARCH 21ST? AND, IF SO, WHAT DID HE SAY?

A: NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO.

I TRIED TO CHECK THAT, BUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE
IS THAT THE SECRETARY DECIDED THAT RATHER THAN ACCEPT THE
AMBASSADOR'S RECOMMENDATION ABOUT A ROUTINE, NON-
SUBSTANTIVE REPLY, THE SECRETARY, I'M SURE, NOTED THE
RECOMMENDATION BUT DECIDED OTHERWISE. AND, AS YOU
KNOW, THERE IS THE LETTER WHICH WENT UP TO THE
SENATOR ON THE 25TH.

Q: WHAT WAS THE DATE OF THAT FIRST CABLE -- MARCH 6TH?

A: MARCH 6, I'M PRETTY SURE. AND THAT WAS UNCLASSIFIED,
YOU KNOW. THE OTHER WAS NOT. END Q AND A. RUSH

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE067372
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JFKING:MG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740074-1120
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740469/aaaaciwe.tel
Line Count: 189
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2002 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <16 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATE DEPT. DAILY BRIEFING, APRIL 3, 1974. FOLLOWING IS PORTION OF DAILY PRESS BRIEFING RE AMBASSADOR
TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: ACAPULCO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005